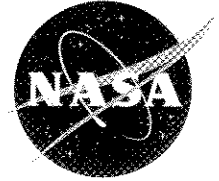


National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
2101 NASA Parkway
Houston, Texas 77058-3696



September 6, 2011

Reply to Attn of: AL-11-052

TO: Distribution

FROM: AL/Attorney Advisor

SUBJECT: Determination regarding attendance by NASA employees at an Hors d'oeuvres
Reception hosted by The National Air and Space Museum & Smithsonian Magazine

On the evening of September 7, 2011, the National Air and Space Museum and Smithsonian Magazine are hosting a reception and program entitled "A Tribute to the Space Shuttle Program." The purpose of this event is to celebrate the accomplishments of the Space Shuttle Program.

Among the over 500 invited guests to this event are representatives from across the federal government, academia and private industry. The estimated cost per person for the reception is \$150.00

Attendance at the reception will allow NASA employees an opportunity to discuss issues of interest to the space community including past and future NASA projects and programs and NASA research and discoveries with other attendees from other federal agencies, Congress, academia and industry. I therefore conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their duties.

Based on the above, I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined by 5 CFR 2635.204(g). Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the National Air and Space Museum & Smithsonian Magazine, including employees in non-career positions for which the Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves and their spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties substantially affect the National Air and Space Museum & Smithsonian Magazine or any of its members, for instance by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.


for Bernard Roan